THE WOMAN'S

DREADNOUGHT

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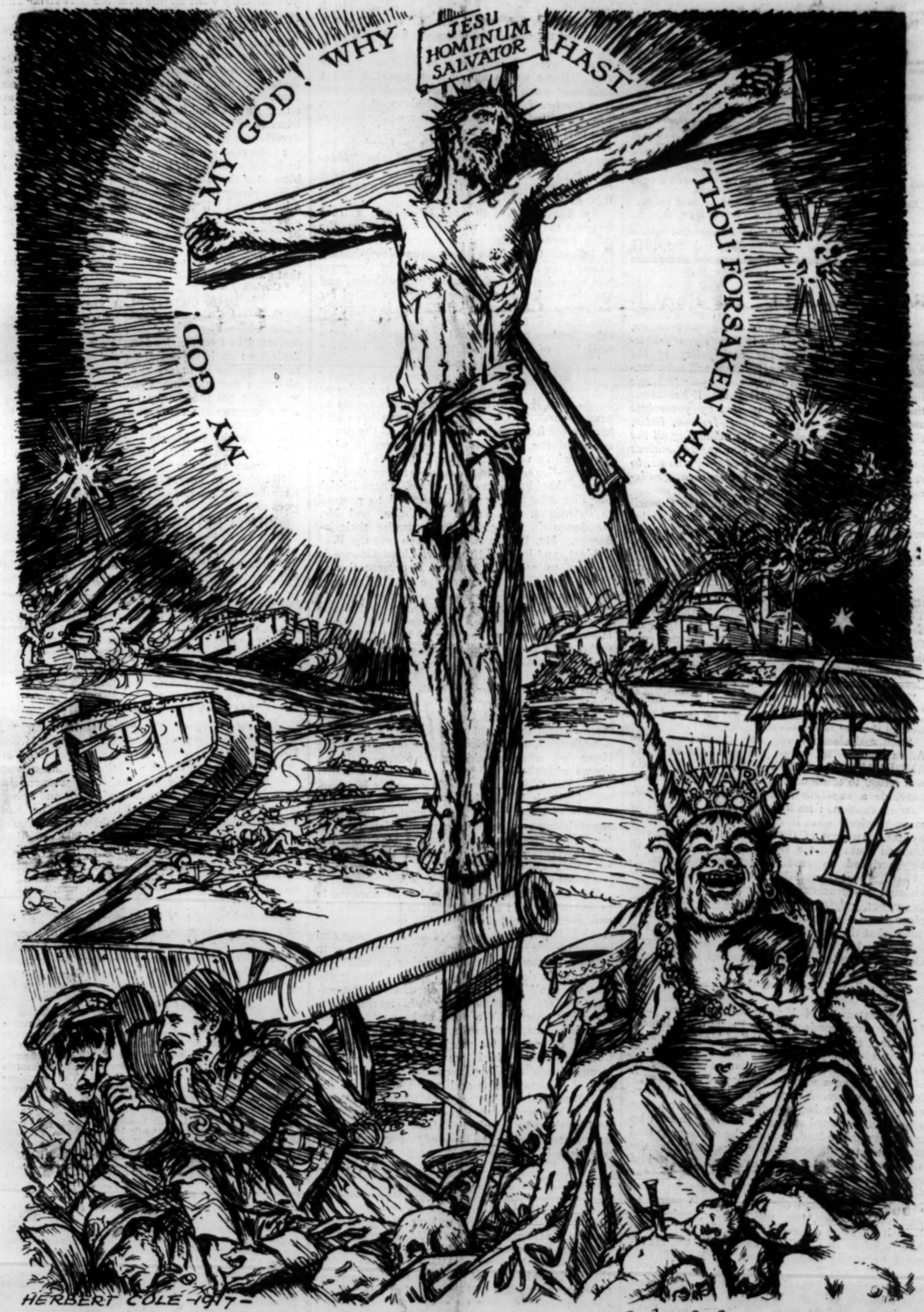

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ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Editor: SYLVIA PANKHURST.

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RUSSIA'S CALL TO PEACE

"You are deceiving yourselves, gentlemen, or, rather, you are vainly trying to delude your fellow-countrymen concerning the real policy of the Russian revolution. The revolution will not sacrifice a single soldier to help you repair 'historic injustices' committed against you. What about the 'historic injustices' committed by yourselves and your violent oppression of Ireland, India, Egypt, and innumerable peoples inhabiting all the continents of the world? If you are so anxious for 'justice' that you are prepared, in its name, to send millions of people to the grave, then, gentlemen, begin with yourselves."

This is the reply made by the Russian Council of Workers' and Soldiers' Delegates to the statements of British newspapers that the War aims of the British and French Governments coincide with the peace programme of free Russia.

The Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates further demands a direct "yes" or "no" to the Russian programme of "NO ANNEXATIONS: NO INDEMNITIES." If the answer be "no," then "the Allies will be taking upon themselves the same responsibility for the continuation of the War as the Governments of Germany and Austria." The organ of the delegates Council explains annexation as:

"The forcible seizure of territory in the possession of another State on the day of the declaration of war. "Without annexation" means that not a drop of the people's blood must be shed for such a seizure."

Such a declaration can only mean that if the Allies refuse to adopt the principle of "NO ANNEXATIONS; NO INDEMNITIES," Russia will refuse to continue fighting with them and will conclude a separate peace. That the formula, "no annexations: no indemnities" is intended to mean precisely what is stated is clearly evidenced by the statement of the Workers' and Soldiers' Council that: "not a single Russian soldier will be sacrificed to repair 'historic injustices.'" Whether the Council has yet brought the Provisional Government fully into line we do not know, but, judging by the events which have taken place since the revolution there is no reason to doubt that the Government will soon be forced to follow the bidding of the Workers' and Soldiers' Council. Similar resolutions passed by the delegates from the front and their refusal to fight on foreign soil will reinforce the decisions of the Council.

The statement of Mr. Farbman (at one time London correspondent of the Petrograd "Bourse Gazette," and now on the staff of Maxim Gorky's "Novoya Zizn") that "the Allies should not regard the Russian Revolution as a means of victory, but as a means of stopping the War," is eminently true. The progress to that end, however, appears to be, not easy and ordered, but a perpetual upward struggle, in which those who come forward to lead, lacking the courage to lead straight onward, are swiftly superseded by the awakened masses, who firmly grasp the ideal of human brotherhood. Thus, first the Czar and the Grand Dukes, then Rodzianko, Kutchkoff and Miliukoff, have been thrust aside. It seems to us that Kerensky, too, will go, for, unless the British Press misrepresents him, Kerensky also has failed to realise the greatness of the movement he would lead. When Mr. Will Thorne came back from Russia he told "The Times" that the fraternising of the German and Russian troops had suddenly ceased. Were the statement true, the heavens might weep for it, for indeed the most noble ending to the War would be that the men who are fighting should lay down their arms, in realisation of their common brotherhood, and say: "Friends, we will fight no more." But happily Mr. Thorne's statement is untrue: Kerensky's repeated appeals to the troops prove that it is not so. Bunakoff, at the All-Russian Council of Peasant Deputies is reported to have said: "This spring, by agreement with the Allies, we ought to have opened a general offensive, but instead of that we concluded a separate truce." That seems to sum up very clearly the situation on the Russo-German front. It is, indeed, a wonderful happening: when, oh when, will it come to pass in every theatre of War?

Whilst the Russian soldiers are holding a truce at the front, progress seems to march apace in Russia, even if only some of what we hear be true. Some weeks ago it was reported that a four-hour working day had been established, and now Skobeleff, the Socialist Minister of Labour, has submitted a proposal for the nationalisation of a part of the mining and metallurgic industries. It is said that the land is to be freed to the peasants, and a correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian" reports that in the little villages the peasants meet nightly to discuss how this shall be done.

As Russia moves towards Peace and a truer freedom than this our world has ever known, the other peoples of Europe slowly rouse themselves to follow. One of the latest signs of awakening comes from France, where the Socialist Congress has agreed to send delegates to Stockholm, and the National Council of the Party has called for a meeting of the International. This is a remarkable advance, for until recently Renaudel and the other leaders have declared it impossible for the Socialists of enemy and Allied nations to meet until Germany should be vanquished.

The British Government watches the temper of the people. It wonders what will transpire at Leeds, and, just to remove immediate causes of provocation, the Clyde deportees have been sent home after fourteen months' exile, and the prosecution of the engineers' strike leaders is withdrawn with a volley of bombastic threats from the Attorney-General as to the terrible things that will happen should trouble occur again. Three British Socialist delegates are being allowed to proceed to Petrograd, but not to Stockholm, and Mr. Henderson is being sent to neutralise their influence. Mr. Barnes is being taken into the War Cabinet, and it is said that Mr. Lloyd George is anxious to secure a Labour Representative as Food Controller. Of course he is! Of course, he wants to shift from his own shoulders, and to place upon Labour, the responsibility and shame of starving our people. The man must be mad indeed who accepts the office of Food Controller without the power to eliminate private profit and to share equally amongst the people what food there is!

No man in the Government desires to be Food Controller, for every man in the Government knows that the Food Controller will daily grow more hateful to the suffering people; if the War is prolonged, as the Government intends, to the bitter end, when one side or the other—and who knows which?—is obliged to succumb to exhaustion. The War weariness of our people is growing daily: it is clearly expressed by the little crowds of women who gather around the newsagents' shops in working class districts to read the War news chalked up on the black boards. The Government means to continue the war for a long, long while: the calling up of men of 50 years is a proof of that!

But what will be done at Leeds? Are we ready to follow Russia: are we ready to inaugurate the movement which shall speedily make England free? If so, we must adopt a very strong and independent course of action. We must cease to indulge in mere weak complaining at what the Government does, and in dull patient "doing the best we can" with the bad schemes the Government devises. We must give the Government its marching orders. We must make our own constructive plans, both in the things of war and the things of peace, for the international Socialist Commonwealth which we desire. We must struggle unfalteringly to secure the establishment of that commonwealth and refuse to tolerate the world as it is in these days of hideous warfare, or the world as we knew it before the War. And let there be no mistake about our demand for immediate Peace on the basis of "no annexations: no indemnities."

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

GEORGE LANSBURY

Our readers will regret to hear that our friend George Lansbury has been suddenly obliged to undergo an operation, which was successfully performed on May 29th. We are glad to report that he is making good progress towards a complete recovery. He will be missed at Leeds.

* * * *

It is reported that anti-conscription riots have taken place in Chicago and Cleveland, U.S.A. Peace feeling is strong in the Western States.

ADULT SUFFRAGE

N.U.R. branches in South West Ham have passed resolutions calling on Mr. Will Thorne to move an adult suffrage amendment to the Franchise Bill, and instructing the railway M.P.s to support him.

FROM A SOLDIER IN THE TRENCHES

Dear ——,—Thanks very much for the "Hackney and Kingsland," and your letter. Yes, you certainly went up one over the 'bus strike and jolly good luck to you. I don't think there would be much trouble if the boys were called out, except that they would turn the guns the other way.

By the way, there are quite a crowd of chaps "blowing over the side"* down here. Some of them get caught, some of them don't, and some come back on their own. Not to be wondered at either in this God-forsaken hole. Now a special letter has been sent round to our officers about deserters, and the pains and penalties of deserting are to be read out on parade every week. It would be funny wouldn't it, if the whole battalion was to blow over the side?

Everybody is fed up down here. We have had a lot of rain. If we have much more we shall be able to get a boat out in the camp. We seem to be getting very short of food. We only get two thin half slices now for breakfast and tea.

Well, well, cheero my old son—it's a long lane that gathers no moss."

* Obviously this means deserting.—EDITOR.

THE COAL SCANDAL

The Coal Controller has given permission for householders to stock 20 tons of coal to be delivered in four-ton loads. We are told this is desirable: so it is—for the rich! They will get their supplies in before the prices rise and the shortage becomes more acute, while the poor, who have not the money to buy in advance nor the accommodation for storing it, will have to scramble for what is left. But 20 tons is an enormous quantity to use: a hundredweight a week, which works out at 2½ tons per annum, is a not uncommon allowance in working-class homes.

Starch is to be rationed now: we shall soon have to say "goodbye" to cleanliness if the War goes on!

SINN FEINERS' CONDITIONS

At a special meeting of the Executive Council of the National Executive of the Sinn Fein, it was unanimously decided that the Sinn Feiners would not participate in any Convention called by the English Government in Ireland except on the following conditions:—

(1) That the terms of reference leave the Convention free to decree the complete independence of Ireland; (2) that the English Government pledges itself to the United States and the Powers of Europe to ratify the decision of the majority of the Convention; (3) that the Convention shall consist of none but persons freely elected by adult suffrage in Ireland; and (4) that the Irish prisoners at Lewes and Aylesbury be treated as prisoners of war.

THE SYME PERSECUTION

When John Syme, the policemen's champion, was immediately re-arrested on his release from Pentonville Prison on Saturday, May 26th, at Bow Street Police Court Sir John Dickinson sent him to a further six months' imprisonment in default of finding two sureties of £100, and being bound over for two months, because he had written a letter in which he said that he would take such action as would force public attention to his case and that the public enquiry which would ensue would justify him. We had seen this letter previously, as his wife had shown it to us, and we can testify that it contains no threat of any sort.

This is Mr. Syme's fifth imprisonment, and he has been endeavouring for eight years to secure an inquiry into his case in order that the tyranny under which all policemen suffer may be exposed. We tender our sympathy to Mrs. Syme in this most difficult time.

COUNCILLOR DOLLAN

As stated last week, Councillor Dollan, our Scottish contributor, was granted exemption from military service on condition that he would undertake work of national importance. Mr. Dollan submitted five different schemes, including offers of employment from a metal merchant in Glasgow and agricultural work in Stepps. The Committee informed him by circular that they were unable to approve of the employment suggested, though the same kind of employment were suggested by them. In a postcrip to the circular it was stated: "The conditions laid down by the Central Tribunal were that work be obtained in a district at least 50 miles from Glasgow." This had not been stated previously, and Councillor Dollan considered that it amounted to deportation, and that the Central Tribunal had no statutory authority for adding such a condition. Councillor Dollan was still in communication with the Central Tribunal at the time of his arrest.

The Stipendary said that he was not sure that the apprehension of Councillor Dollan was in perfect accordance with the military instructions issued, but he decided to fine him 40s. and hand him over to the military authorities. Councillor Dollan applied for leave to appeal. Mrs. Dollan afterwards saw her husband at Hamilton Barracks, where he was confined to a cell and awaiting Court-martial for refusing to parade. Councillor Dollan has, nevertheless sent us his notes as usual.

* * * *

Mr. Balfour, speaking to the Canadian Parliament at Ottawa said: "If the democracy fails us we shall be bankrupt indeed." True, but democracy will not!

MOTHERS' PENSIONS: By a Parson's Wife

The whole world is gradually coming to recognise that the problem of Motherhood is the most vital of all problems. The claim of the mother has too long been disregarded, and many of the ills, social, economic and political, from which we suffer to-day can be traced to this fact.

In view of the appalling loss of life occasioned by the War, every baby is of value to the State, and if only the State realised its duty to the mother, reforms which would have a far-reaching effect on future generations would be immediately taken in hand.

For some reasons which it is difficult to fathom the woman's movement on the Continent has concentrated its efforts on bettering the condition of woman as woman, instead of attempting to fit her to take man's place in the scheme of things, and we in England ought to work on the same lines, for a little while at any rate, and give the question of Mother Protection and Mother-Endowment the serious consideration it deserves.

Some years before other nations took this matter up, France, possibly because of her steadily declining birth-rate, was already grappling with the question of Mother Protection and various schemes to encourage parenthood were being discussed. The various suggestions made gradually took concrete shape, and crêches, free meals for necessitous mothers, milk depôts, infant and maternity hospitals were started.

As scientific investigation advanced, the close relationship between mother and child became more apparent, and medical men were unanimously of opinion that the best way to lessen infant mortality was to keep the mother at home to look after her child. As economic conditions compel thousands of married women to earn their daily bread in factory and workshop, the only way to secure the mother's presence in the home was to furnish her with an equivalent to her weekly wage, either by some extended form of maternity insurance or by paying some large item of household expenditure. Both these measures were tried on a small scale in France, and several societies for extended maternity insurance, on a contributory basis, were started and were found to fill a real need. Also in several blocks of State-owned flats one or two quarter's rent was remitted on the birth of a child, which practically amounted to a payment in money to the mother. This principle was being gradually extended to such an extent that some time before the outbreak of War the French Chamber of Deputies had under consideration a Bill to endow every mother of more than four children with a life annuity. The necessary funds were to be raised by taxing bachelors and childless couples. Another suggestion made by a famous French scientist was that a gift in money should be made to the mother on the birth of each child; this sum to be increased at each birth.

The prominence given to questions of this kind in France was responsible for efforts made in the same direction by other nations, though in each case the reforms made were suited to national needs and modified by local customs.

What has been aptly described as the high-water mark in reforms tending to better the conditions of women was reached when, in 1911, the Mothers' Pension Bill became law in the United States. As the average man's ideas on mothers' pensions are rather vague, a few words on the scope and purpose of the Mothers' Pension Bill may be opportune, especially in view of Judge Henry Neil's visit to England.

The Mothers' Pension Law has been graphically described as the finest law passed in America since Abraham Lincoln penned the Emancipation Proclamation. In accomplishment and in importance the Mothers' Pension system for abolishing child-poverty is without a precedent, and, like the public school system, it is destined to be of equal importance in building up the country, reducing taxes, promoting human happiness, and producing healthy men and women. Money paid f: mothers' pensions returns to the State in the reduced cost of hospitals, police courts, prisons and asylums. After the mothers' pension system had been in working order for a time it was found to be much cheaper to hire the mother to take charge of her own children than to bring up the said children in institutions. It is also much more human, and the officials in charge of the pension system are delighted with its results. Worn and harassed mothers become happy mothers, ready to discharge their duties to their children and to the State.

The mothers' pension system aims primarily at helping the destitute mother to bring up her children; but in view of the enormous rise in food prices, a feeling has been growing in England that some such system on a sliding scale, like the Old Age Pension, and possibly on a contributory basis, ought to be started to help all mothers whose husband's earnings are not sufficient to provide the family with nourishing food. Medical inspectors deplore the fact that our costly system of education fails largely in its results, owing to the physical condition of the children who attend our schools. The State recognises its obligation to educate the child, but it cannot or will not see that an equivalent to the cost of education made to the mother during the early years of the child's life would save much of the money which is at present being spent on hospitals, sanatoria, &c. A system of mothers' pensions would encourage earlier marriages and thus prevent irregular unions, with their awful consequences of degradation to the mother.

Though there can be no reasonable objection to a woman's adding to the family income when her children have reached the school age, her being employed at home in the earlier years of her married life, instead of in factory and workshop, would lessen unemployment among men, at least to a certain extent.

The monetary help given to the working woman would not, as many people suppose, encourage her to imitate the lilies of the field, for there would still be plenty of work for her to do at home.

Much has been said and written on the abuse of the separation allowance, but from enquiries made it seems that in about seventy per cent. of cases such help has been of real benefit to women.

PLENTY FOR THE RICH, FAMINE FOR THE POOR

On May 24th, under the auspices of the W.S.F. Food Committee, fifteen women went from working-class districts of Hampstead, Camden Town, Bow, Bromley, Poplar, Custom House, and Canning Town to West London to see whether sugar could be obtained there. They went first to Harrod's Stores in Knightsbridge, a fine large establishment where everything is done in great style. The place was thronged with smartly dressed women, who seemed to have no difficulty in obtaining all that they required, but when the working mothers asked for sugar, the high and mighty assistants behind the counters appeared to be quite deaf. One of the East Enders asked a West End customer whether the shopkeepers had any sugar, and on learning that this customer had been supplied, the East Ender pressed still more urgently to be served with half a pound. The man behind the counter protested: "I don't make anything out of selling half-pounds of sugar" (evidently the assistants get commission on the sale of some commodities). "That is a matter between you and your employer," replied the woman from East London; "I want half a pound of sugar." But the assistant was again deaf. Members of the deputation then sought out the manager, and informed him that reporters were present from THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT and the "Herald." Whereat he proceeded with them to the assistant who had refused to serve the sugar, and saw it handed over. As it was found that other assistants were meeting the requests of other members of the sugar-buying party with contemptuous silence, the manager was again requisitioned, and finally every member of our party secured half a pound of sugar. "What a lot of common people there are about!" one of Harrod's regular customers was heard to say, whilst most of the others cast looks of horrified surprise upon our party. Our party, of course, explained to the assistants that it is their duty to serve a poorly dressed woman with as much readiness as though she were a duchess, or, rather, with more, because she has less time to spare, and needs the sugar more.

From Harrod's the fifteen working women proceeded to the Army and Navy Stores in Victoria Street. They saw the pampered dogs in the baskets outside and the men in uniform standing there paid to look after them; the men in uniform to open the doors which customers are surely quite capable of opening for themselves; and the masses of leisured, over-dressed people. There was no difficulty in getting sugar at the Army and Navy Stores. The women found that by giving the name and number of any subscriber, each of them could get up to 2 lbs. of sugar over the counter and up to 7 lbs. could be bought to send home—fancy, having one's things sent home, some of them thought!

It seemed obvious, if Harrods and the Army and Navy Stores may be taken as a sample of the whole that there is plenty alike of sugar and every other commodity in the West End of London where the well-to-do go to shop. Every member of our party was struck by the contrast between shopping in these swell neighbourhoods and in the working-class districts. The experience of one of the party who lives in Bow on the previous Saturday is typical.

At 6.40 a.m. she put her little boy in the sugar queue which had already formed, though, of course, the shop was not yet open. Then she went home, dressed her children, and made their breakfast, without eating anything herself. At 8 a.m. she put a little girl in the potato queue and returned to the sugar queue to relieve her little son and send him home to his breakfast.

At 8.30 a.m. the boy returned to her, and she gave him money to go to Stratford to buy bread, as it is easier to obtain it there than in her own district.

At 9.5 a.m. she got her sugar and went to relieve her little girl in the potato queue.

At 11 a.m. the greengrocer began to serve the potatoes, and some time afterwards she returned home, having spent from 6.40 a.m. buying "Sunday's dinner," the one dinner of the week.

From Harrods our party went to a Lyons' tea-shop, where one of the waitresses moved away a box of sugar lest they might be tempted to take any. Later on one of the party asked her whether she could get all the sugar she needed at home. She replied that she lived at Wimbledon, and that her mother had to wait three hours in a queue in order to get sugar. Some of the East Enders wondered what would happen if the waitress should succumb to the temptation to take a pound of Lyons' sugar home with her.

The sugar party then went to the Food Controller's office at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, and being already well-known, they were shown into the Duke of Westminster's magnificent library and interviewed by Mr. Austen Taylor, one of the secretaries to the Food Controller.

Miss Price introduced the deputation, which impressed upon Mr. Taylor the fact that whilst sugar is plentful in the big West End stores used by the well-to-do, it is terribly scarce in working-class districts. Each woman gave her experiences and each had a similar story to tell. One poor mother explained that, as her husband is tubercular she is obliged to be the wage-earner for the family. Therefore she cannot stand in the sugar queue, and had given her baby saccharine instead of sugar. The child is ill, and the doctor who is attending had just told her that she was poisoning her baby with the saccharine, which was the cause of its illness.

Another housewife said that she has six little boys under the age for leaving school, and she has to go out to work as her husband's wages are too small to live on. Therefore she has no time to stand in the food queues, and as she cannot afford expensive substitutes she and her family are going without actual necessaries and are all suffering physically.

A mother said that her child had 15 boils on his neck; another that her child had had three operations on an abscess: these things the doctors had attributed to poor feeding.

One woman had brought a Lipton's tea wrapper with her complaining of its weight, and said that she had had to pay 2s. 8d. per lb. for it as it had been weighed with the tea.

The milk shortage was also complained of, and it was recommended that Lord Devonport should see that children and invalids were supplied before any milk is used for ices, blanc manges and other luxuries. It was urged that the municipalities should distribute the milk supply.

Some of the women protested that when a shopkeeper has sold all his sugar the next shopkeeper pretends that he has also sold out in order to avoid serving the customers of another shop and to reserve his stock for his regular customers.

Mr. Austen Taylor stated that the West End is supplied with 60 per cent. of the pre-War sugar supplies, and that the same percentage of the pre-War supply is sent to the working class districts. The sugar party pointed out that if this were so it would be unfair, as the poor always eat too little and the rich too much, and that 60 per cent. of the West End pre-War supplies would work out at considerably more per head than the pre-War supply of the working class districts. Moreover, in munition areas the population had increased, whilst in the West End the population had decreased.

The women declared that they could not stand the present situation much longer, and that they were strongly tempted to smash some of the shop windows.

Mr. Austen Taylor said he hoped that they would not do such a thing in War-time.

The women replied that the present is a time of war on their children, and that it is their children for whom they are fighting.

Mr. Austen Taylor's statement that working-class districts are receiving 60 per cent. of their

(Continued on page 766, cols. 1 and 2.)

ANY COMPLAINTS? By P. J. Dollan

When you have been in a military barracks guard-room for twenty-four hours or thereabouts an officer visits you in your cell, and after having a look round your palatial abode asks: "Have you any complaints?" At least, that was my experience, and when the question was asked of me I could but reply that I had only one complaint, which was that I wanted Peace, and protested against being detained because I had that natural and very common complaint. I had plenty of house-room, abundant food, good bedding, civil treatment, and my one complaint, therefore, was that along with many others I wanted Peace. Unfortunately it was a complaint which the officer could not remove, because, although the armed forces are fighting for Peace, it cannot be born of War.

The complaint is not uncommon. Everybody has it in civil life, from the Premier down to the humblest labourer, and in the Army from Sir Douglas Haig to the newly recruited bugler boy. In other countries the complaint is just as rife, and troubles each household there as it troubles each household here. Yet although the complaint is universal, Governments and armies seem unable to find a remedy. All of them tell us they are fighting for Peace, but the longer they fight the further off is Peace. This would seem to teach us that fighting cannot bring Peace, and still those who try to win Peace without fighting are maligned, persecuted, or imprisoned. It does seem strange that I and others who want Peace are imprisoned, because we express that want, at the order of a Government which went into this War to end War! Truly the world is upside down.

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If the Governments of the world really wanted Peace, they would encourage Pacifists rather than imprison them, for it is only by a general acceptance of the principles of Pacifism that Peace will come to the common people. Pacifists ought to be given every facility for propagating their principles by Governments which desire Peace, and the fact that such facilities are withheld in this country would seem to warrant the belief that the Government does not want Peace, a Peace that will endure. Probably the same is true of the Governments in other countries. In any case it is idle to expect Governments which make War to make Peace. Burglars don't make good policemen, and capitalist Governments don't make good Pacifists. We won't get Peace from Governments which prosecute War.

Therefore, if we want Peace, we must make Peace ourselves. We have to cease complaining to the Governments that we want Peace, and devote our energy towards securing Peace. The Russian workers and soldiers have shown us how to secure Peace, and when we are prepared to follow their lead the end of the War will heave in sight. The common people can have Peace on democratic terms when they will it. Peace will come from those who are prepared to do things rather than from those who complain. If Peace is worth having, it is worth striving for, and no sacrifice is too great if we have the cause at heart. The national Labour and trade union organisations of Scotland have resolved in favour of Peace, but if the resolve is to be effective it has to be backed by action of some kind.

Even in military centres there is an atmosphere of War weariness which is unmistakable. Men and boys are getting tired of the continual strain of War, and would welcome Peace as readily as any. They are by no means Pacifists in the accepted sense of the term, but neither are they to be numbered among the Jingoes who believe in a settlement based on force. They are now doubtful about the "pure Belgian origin" of the conflict, and are beginning to wonder what really was the cause of the War. Many of them have discovered Capitalism to be the cause of the War, and as that conviction grows the enthusiasm for War wanes. The Russian Revolutionaries and the profiteers, although pursuing different tracks, are an effective combination for Peace.

The conscientious objector is no longer bullied or brutalised: he is treated with respect, and many soldiers admire his courage. The soldiers are coming round to the standpoint of the conscientious objector, and, at least in Scotland, understand his position. Great numbers of them are ready to link up with Pacifists and accept our principles with enthusiasm. Even officers have stated in my hearing their respect for the objector, and have endeavoured to make his lot as comfortable as possible. The cause of Peace is winning, and the common people have to see that it wins without too much delay. A handsome victory is theirs for the taking if they will cease complaining and take the Peace that they want. The world is for the workers when they like to claim it.

PLENTY FOR THE RICH, FAMINE FOR THE POOR (continued from page 765).

pre-War supplies is one which we receive without any sense of conviction. A member of the Poplar Municipal Committee on Food recently stated that only 25 per cent. of the pre-War sugar supplies are coming into the district, and when questioned on behalf of the committee shopkeepers in the district draw an exceedingly gloomy picture of the general food situation. One shopkeeper in the Roman Road, Bow, in the Poplar Borough, says that the shortage of sugar, margarine, and condensed milk is acute, and that as munition work has brought many more families into the district, the Sugar Commission ought really to have sent here an increase rather than a decrease on the pre-War supplies. On the other hand, many shopkeepers sadly say that if they could get only 50 per cent. of their pre-War supplies they could manage very well, as the high prices are forcing their customers to eat less. One woman, who bought her business from an Austrian after the anti-German riots, is allowed no sugar by the Comission because *she* did not sell it in 1915.

One shopekeeper, who complains of the shortage of margarine and condensed milk, says that the little shops, because they have no facilities for carting their supplies, buy such goods from the bigger shops of the district, and these bigger shops, being now only able to get enough to supply the retail, refuse to sell to the little shops. Another small shopkeeper in the same road makes the same complaint, declaring that the big shopkeepers are endeavouring to crush out their little neighbours. He urges that the little shopkeepers who live in the district treat their customers with greater consideration than do the big companies owning many shops. The little shopkeepers are working only for a weekly wage: he himself draws £3 a week out of his business, and does not look to make any profit beyond that; if he buys food cheaply, he sells it cheaply; whereas, he says, the big companies are out for making profits, and whether they buy food cheaply or not, they sell it for as much as they can get." He says that he and men of his sort are at present losing heavily: he lost £3 5s., more than a week's wage, in five weeks' time. He further protests that whilst one of the branches of the Home and Colonial Stores was only fined £1 for refusing to sell sugar except with other commodities, small traders in Whitechapel were fined £12, a crushing sum to them, for the same offence.

Many shopkeepers complain of a shortage of condensed milk, yet the manager of one of the large multiple shops which has branches all over London says that his firm has plenty of condensed milk, because it imports it, and that his firm is trying to crush out the smaller shops.

The St. Pancras Food Control Committee reports that:

"Certain foods are not procurable at all in certain poor neighbourhoods and yet can be had without any difficulty at the big West End stores."

Surely the case for national food control, with administration by the local governing bodies, is overwhelming!

But what is the Food Control Department doing? We received at this office a letter from the Department offering to send us a stereotyped block of the words "EAT LESS BREAD" for insertion in our columns. This appears to us typical of the Food Control activities!

Food rioting has begun in Glasgow, 400 women having stormed a potato lorry.

Thirty thousand people demonstrated on Glasgow Green on Sunday, May 27th, to demand the resignation of Lord Devonport, to protest against the granting of the Freedom of the City to Lloyd George, and the increase of salaries to highly-paid Corporation officials. Glasgow is not alone in its revolt against the system that creates plenty for the rich and famine for the poor. The "Daily Express" reports that Lord Devonport has resigned. He was never the right man for the job, but the policy is more important than the personality. We wish to have all the food that there is equally distributed: we wish to abolish rich and poor, and to secure plenty for all.

Mrs. PEEL'S EXIT!

On Whit Monday evening, at the Hackney Empire, the Manager said that he had to announce that the principal lady speaker from the Food Committee, the Hon. Mrs. Peel, had graciously promised to address the audience. Mrs. Peel then spoke, but only those near the platform could hear what she said. At last Mrs. Boyce caught the following words:—"The Germans take us for fools because we don't economise, and I don't like to be called a fool by the Germans. I manage to do with 1 lb. of bread a week." Mrs. Boyce sprang up and said so that everyone could hear: "If you can do on 1 lb. of bread a week, you have money to buy any substitutes, which we cannot possibly do because of the high prices." All the audience cheered, and the police and attendants hurried to turn out the interrupter, but the people cried "No, no." The Manager saw that the eviction would be unpopular, and made frantic signs to the attendants to desist, but they had their backs to him. At last one of them caught his eye, and our friend was left master of the situation. The crowd cheered again, Mrs. Boyce bowed her acknowledgments, and the hon. lady was hissed, with cries of "Give her the bird," and had to make an ignominious exit.

THE SONG OF FALSE GODS

"I met an Angel clad in silver flames, with feet of beryl and an aureole like amber.

"He drew back a veil before me, saying: 'This was the love-god of Nineveh.'

"I saw a beautiful youth, fairer than ivory, crowned with a chaplet of anemones. And about him vestal voices cried: 'Thammuzi!' and 'Adonais!'

"And he vanished.

"But the Angel drew back another veil, saying: 'This was the love-god of Greece.'

"I saw Eros, the laughter-drunken boy, with his lambent eyes and his quiver full of gold-tipped arrows.

"And he, too, faded from me.

"Yet the Angel withdrew a third veil, saying: 'And this is the love-god of the Christians.'

"I beheld Christ creeping up Calvary. The sweat of his agony stood upon His brow and His face was ashen for pain.

"I said to the Angel, 'Surely this is not a love-god alone?'

"Then he smiled sadly upon me and made answer: 'Child, He beareth the image of the Christian love-god on His back.'

"I gazed upon the heavy Cross, and thus awakened to my bitter knowledge."

From "The Swine Gods," by Regina Miriam Bloch, with Foreword by Israel Zangwill. Published by John Richmond, 14 and 15 Conduit Street, W. Price 3s. 6d. net.

W.S.F. PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED AT 400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E.

"Mothers' Pensions"

An account of what ought properly to be called Child Pensions, as administered in 27 out of 48 States of America. Price 1d.; post free, 1½d. 9d. per dozen.

"The Birthrate,"

Notes and Views on the Report of the National Birthrate Commission, by E. Sylvia Pankhurst. Price 1d; post free, 1½d. 9d. per dozen.

"The Execution of an East London Boy"

including his letters to his Mother. ½d. each; post free, 1d.

W.S.F. REPORT OF SOCIAL WORK IN 1915. PRICE 2d. ILLUSTRATED. Postage, ½d.

Bound Volumes I and II of "Woman's Dreadnought now ready, price 6/6 each To be obtained at 400 Old Ford Road, London, E. Postage, 7d. extra.

"That Won't Suit My Lot" A Poplar Woman's Views on the Food Question by Mrs. Walker. Price 4 a penny.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d. —Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

SUFFRAGE WORKERS should spend their holidays at "Sea View," Victoria Road, Brighton. Hostess, Miss Turner.

SOUTHEND: Apartments or Bed-Sitting Room, near bandstand, pier.—C., 1 Grange Gardens, Southend.

WANTED, Situation as **COOK** in Restaurant or Hotel; good references. Apply Box 22, 400 Old Ford Road, E.

SOUTHEND: Furnished Apartments, 8 minutes from sea and train; a Furnished House conveniently situated.—Apply "400" this Office.

WANTED, outdoor work, collecting, canvassing, etc., by young reliable woman. Good references.—Apply K.J., this office.

WANTED, for East London Toy Factory, a LEARNER. —Apply 45 Norman Road, E.3.

Charge for advertising in this column, 1d. per word; four insertions for the price of three.

WANTED.—We urgently need a PIANO in our hall. A member has very kindly offered to put one in order for us if quite out of repair. Have any friends an old and useless piano they can present us with?—St. Stephen's Shop, 85 Hoxton Street, N.

TO LET—HALL for meetings, etc., holds 60. Terms moderate.—Apply Miss Beamish, St. Stephen's Shop, 85, Hoxton Street, N.

ELECTRIC MACHINE BAKERY

91 BURDETT ROAD, MILE END

W. WOODS & SONS, *Family Bakers*

NOW READY

WOMAN'S EFFORT: A CHRONICLE OF BRITISH WOMEN'S FIFTY YEARS' STRUGGLE FOR CITIZENSHIP (1865-1914) BY A. E. METCALFE, B.Sc. (LON.) LATE H.M.I. (SEC. SCHOOLS) WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY LAURENCE HOUSMAN AND SEVEN CARTOONS FROM "PUNCH." THREE SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE NET OXFORD B. H. BLACKWELL BROAD ST.

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

May 22nd.—It transpired, in reply to questions put by Mr. Trevelyan (L.) that five C.O.s have been sent to France. Mr. Macpherson would not admit that they were C.O.s, but members of the Non-Combatant Corps.

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Mr. Pringle (L.) and Mr. Hogge (L.) complained that men called up under the Review of Exceptions Act are sent notices to addresses from which they have removed. Therefore, on the one hand, railway fares are paid where not needed, whilst others requiring fares are not provided for. Mr. Macpherson said recruiting officers had definite instructions to pay fares to those who had to travel more than five miles.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

Second Reading of the Electoral Reform Bill, which we reported in our last issue.

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May 23rd.—Mr. Chamberlain stated that the Imperial Conference had decided that India should be represented at future sittings with the same right of speech and vote as is granted to representatives of other Governments. India will also be represented at the Annual Session of the Imperial Cabinet. Mr. Chamberlain regarded these acts of justice as privileges; but why should India have been treated differently from the Colonies? He stated that indentured emigration was to be put a stop to within a limited time, and that the War had ended recruitment for indentured labour. We wish we could believe that this horrible blot on civilisation had been erased for ever. But the facts we published recently seem to contradict Mr. Chamberlain.

HARRYING THE DISCHARGED.

Mr. Hogge (L.) and Mr. Pringle (L.) pointed out that many discharged soldiers are visibly unfit for service but are taken from their work for medical examination. Mr. Macpherson inferred that it was necessary for every disabled soldier to present himself for examination. Mr. Hogge further stated that a man who is suffering from defective vision, hearing, angina pectoris, and varicocele is being called up for military service, though any severe training will surely kill him. Mr. Snowden (Lab.) told of a soldier just from hospital, suffering from trench feet who was sent straight to France. Mr. Macpherson said he had called for a report. How is it that the War Office never knows about the illusage of soldiers?

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Mr. Outhwaite (L.) drew attention to the declaration issued by the new Provisional Government of Russia, which openly adopts as its aim the re-establishment of a general peace which does not tend towards domination over other nations or seizure of their national possessions. Lord R. Cecil admitted that he knew of this declaration; but seemed unwilling to make such a one on the part of the British Government!

FOOD PROFITEERING.

That food prices have increased in some case 172 per cent. and in others 400, Mr. Billing (L.) stated. Captain Bathurst admitted the facts.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

The second day of the Debate on the Electoral Reform measure before the House started with Mr. A. Williams' (L.) speech in support of Proportional Representation which would give complete representation to all bodies of opinion. Mr. Herbert Samuel (L.), in support, urged that the present registration law excluded one-fourth of the adult males of the country, and is a "disgrace to any Statute Book." He deplored the possibility of ownership of business premises allowing two votes, also the retention of university representation. But he acknowledged this to be a compromise measure and seemed to think everyone would have to take some kind of unpleasant pill. Mr. Leslie Scott (U.) admitted that he had always been opposed to Woman Suffrage, but now, owing to their War work, he had been convinced that they ought to have the vote. Mr. Wardle (Lab.) is under the impression that this Bill will settle the franchise question for the next generation. Sir George Reid (U.) opposed the Bill because of the War. But he did not omit pointing out that the British Government was very behind the Colonial, and remarked that the woman's question appeared to have only been discovered now as a subject for consideration whereas he never had any doubt about their rights since he could walk! In which case we should like Sir George to press for a full measure of Adult Suffrage not merely the shelving of the present compromise. Sir F. Banbury (U.) in his opposition to the Bill, though apparently not yet a convert to woman suffrage, said: "What happens to a woman at thirty which will qualify her for having a vote. . . . It is a riddle which I give up." And so must everyone! He further argued that if there be no sex disqualification, you cannot possibly say that a woman cannot vote on the same terms as a man. The women who would be still unrecognised by this Bill—a Suffrage paper he had been reading said—would not cease to agitate (obviously THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT), therefore there was no argument for the Bill on these grounds. Sir Frederick was not prepared to advocate Adult Suffrage because such a measure was too far-reaching! Colonel Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck (U.) made a splendid stand for women's rights. He did not base women's claims to vote on war-work—they are as old as Christianity, in his eyes, adding: "If our religion has not taught us the equal value of men and women in the eyes of the maker, then our religion has taught us very little indeed . . . are we to treat women as drudges or citizens?" Mr. Hayes Fisher and Mr. Long spoke on behalf of the Government, urging the acceptance of the Bill. At the Division, 329 voted in favour of the second reading, and 40 against. The really debatable points will arise in the Committee when more interesting developments may be expected.

FOOD CONTROLLER.

May 24th.—Mr. Pemberton Billing (I.) asked whether any person directly or indirectly connected with the Ministry of Food has any interest in any trading concern. Captain Bathurst said this was a "libellous innuendo." Yet Mr. Billing stated that, according to the last published report, the present Food Controller is the owner of 275,000 shares in the International Tea Stores. Captain Bathurst again replied threateningly, and dared Mr. Billing to make the statement outside the House. What Mr. Billing and the public at large want to know is whether Lord Devonport is connected with any trading concern?

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The munitions factory which was being built at Henbury, has been discontinued because America can send the necessary supplies. Sir W. Evans, of the Ministry of Munitions explained that the importation of the raw material took more space than the finished article. Then why not have thought of that sooner, before incurring the expense of building a factory? Oh! this business Government!

FORCIBLE FEEDING.

Mr. T. Richardson (Lab.) asked whether Mr. E. Ribiero, of Manchester, a C.O., who is hunger-striking, is suffering from internal bleeding and vomiting as a result of forcible feeding. Mr. Macpherson could give no information.

EQUAL PAY.

In reply to Mr. C. Duncan (Lab.), Mr. Illingworth said that he could not undertake to give women telegraphists the same pay as men, on account of their temporary liability to night duty. Whether women are employed on day or night work their wages should be the same as those of men. Now, however, the Post Office is going to save at the expense of the women telegraphists.

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Mr. Ginnell (Sinn Fein) again pleaded for the release from prison of the newly-elected Sinn Fein M.P., and was put off by the Government.

The Finance Bill was read a second time. Mr. Leif Jones (L.) pleaded for more leniency to be shown towards shipowners, and he thought Clause 19 of the Bill was a breach of the pledge given the shipping community, the fact of making ships run at scheduled prices must result in a possible loss! Others followed the same course of sympathising with the shipowners. But Mr. Bonar Law, whilst saying that shipowners had been treated better than the railways, related that he was a shareholder in fourteen ships, and that the rate of dividend he received last year was 47 per cent., **after paying the Excess Profits Tax!** He accused shipowners of making profits directly out of the War. The people have been saying that for years, and the Government denied it! Mr. Snowden (Lab.) remarked on the smallness of the attendance of members, and attributed it to the fact that "a sort of fatalism appears to have fallen on the people of this country. They seem to think that things will be what they will be, and that no human effort can alter them in the slightest degree." Mr. Snowden said that perhaps a special flag day should be held for the relief of shipowners! But he knew that high food prices, increased railway fares were pressing very hard on working people, in addition to the taxation imposed by the House. The increase in the tobacco duty had caused the price of cigarettes to be increased 3s. in the lb. According to an estimate he had seen, the Chancellor of the Exchequer receives £6,000,000 from this increased duty, whilst the consumer is called on to pay £17,000,000! There will never be an end to this profiteering until everything is nationalised in the true sense!

SUGAR USURY.

May 25th.—In Birmingham in the Floodgate area, Mr. Wing (L.) stated that sugar was sold to poor people at a penny per two ounces. Captain Bathurst thought this was due to the fact of selling in such small quantities. Mr. Wing thereupon remarked that no matter what complaints were made about the rise in the price of food, plausible excuses were always brought forward.

EAST END RAID.

Mr. Trevelyan (L.) drew the attention of the House to the recent raid by the police in East London, and alleged that people were illused as we have already related in our issue of May 26th. Mr. Macpherson, in reply, stated that the military authorities, with the aid of twenty police, arrested possible absentees. As papers could not be examined in the streets the men were taken to Aldgate Section House, where he implied they were most comfortably lodged! He did not say anything about the girls who were ill-used and taken into custody.

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Mr. James Gilbert (L.) urged that steps should be taken at once to assure coal for the small consumer in London during the winter. Mr. Roberts said the matter was being considered. There is however, no time to be lost!

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On the adjournment, Mr. Joynson-Hicks (U.) raised the question of British prisoners being sent to the Russian frontiers by the Germans and suffering great hardships. He received little support from the House.

IRISH CONVENTION.

The Prime Minister regretted that negotiations had not progressed far enough for him to make a definite statement on the Irish Convention.

LABOUR UNREST.

The Prime Minister announced that a Commission of Inquiry was to be appointed to inquire and report upon the operation of all the war emergency legisation of the Government.

Let us hope it will find out how much harm such legislation has done.

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The House adjourned until June 5th.

ELECTORAL REFORM: By W. J. Watson

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

There are many opinions on the report of the Speaker's Conference, but one of the chief items in it, *i.e.*, Proportional Representation, seems to have escaped the attention of a very large number of even those who have taken a keen interest in Electoral Reform during the past few years.

Whatever the views on the proposals generally, whether the "compromise" is to be accepted or whether adult suffrage is to be pressed forward, we must not overlook, what Mr. Wells has described as the "only rational, honest, and efficient electoral method," *i.e.*, Proportional Representation with the single transferable vote. It is quite true that if we have a full measure of adult suffrage with the use of this method of election we shall have a more democratically elected House of Commons, but even if we only secure a "compromise" on the franchise question and obtain the introduction of proportional representation with the single transferable vote we shall secure a real reform.

Proportional Representation will do away with the single member constituency and thereby abolish the opportunity now afforded to political parties so to rearrange constituencies as to obtain an increase in the number of seats in a given district. Take the case of Sheffield in the General Election in December, 1910. There are five divisions, and the total votes cast for the Ministerialist and Unionist parties were 27,011 and 24,538 respectively. This meant a Ministerialist majority of 2,473. The Ministerialists secured only two seats and the Unionists the remaining three. Now it can be seen that by arranging the constituencies by placing certain portions of one or two on to others the Ministerialists may be able to gain the majority of seats in Sheffield. The "Sheffield Daily Telegraph" of April 16th, 1914, contained a statement that the Liberals had submitted a scheme of redistribution for Sheffield which would enable them to "sweep the city." It will thus be seen that such practices as that referred to are contemplated—and undoubtedly acted upon.

Under the scheme of Proportional Representation with the single transferable vote Sheffield might be declared one constituency and return five representatives. This principle would apply to all large towns or cities, each returning a number of members in proportion to its population or electorate. The large counties would be divided. Each elector will have one vote, and would show his preference for the candidates in the order he prefers them. For instance, if Brown, Jones, Wilson, and Young were the candidates, the elector, if he prefers Young would place the figure 1 against Young's name. Should the elector's next preference be Jones, he would place the figure 2 against Jones' name. This procedure would be followed with the remaining candidates.

Opponents of this method of election tell us that it is too complicated and that it has never been put into operation! In the largest Trade Union in the country, *i.e.*, the National Union of Railwaymen, the single transferable vote has been used in all elections during the past four years. To show the "difficulty" of understanding the method it will be well to give one or two figures of the number of spoilt papers in consequence of electors not being able to follow the instructions. Take one or two of the first elections under the system advocated. Total votes, 7,828; papers spoilt in consequence of not understanding the method, 13. Total votes, 5,401; and spoilt, 9. Total votes, 6,429; spoilt, 2. Now take a more recent case. Total votes, 14,349; spoilt, 15. Another instance. Total votes, 14,080; and the spoilt papers were only 4. These instances are not specially selected but are typical results and sufficiently strong to prove the comparative ease with which the elections are carried out.

The system of Proportional Representation is in operation in Tasmania, and the following result of an election illustrates the fairness of the system:

Party	Votes	Seats obtained.
Liberal	8,587	4
Labour	4,426	2

Taking the whole of the elections in Tasmania in 1912, the proportion of votes cast for Labour entitled them to 13.66 seats and under P.R. 14 seats were obtained. Anti-Labour, according to the votes polled, was entitled to 16.34 seats and actually obtained 16 seats.

Thus it will be seen that the system of P.R. with the use of the single transferable vote secures representation in proportion to the voting strength of a particular section. In other words, the majority and minority obtain representation. The system of P.R. is an extension not only of justice but liberty; liberty to choose our own representatives, and it is therefore up to the people who believe in this to work for the extension of the proposals in the Speaker's Conference report.

FOREIGN NEWS

On June 14th a Congress of the Workmen's Soldiers' Council will take place in Petrograd, at which women as a body will be represented for the first time.

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According to the "Idea Nationale," Turkey has proposed a separate peace to Russia on the basis of settlement of the Armenian question by recognition of the principle of nationalities and free passage through the Dardanelles for Russian war and merchant ships.

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As a result of deputy Haase's protests the German War Minister has granted passports to the Socialist majority and minority for the Stockholm Conference.

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The "Journal du Peuple" reports great strikes in Paris in which women workers in different industries are taking part. Their demands are: higher wages, war bonus to meet high food prices, and Saturday afternoons free.

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"Vorwärts" announces an International Trade Union Conference in Stockholm on June 8th. Invitations are to be issued by the International Federation of Trade Unions from Amsterdam.

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The Russian Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates is appealing to Socialist organisations in every country, and especially to the Austrian Social-Democratic Party, that everything possible should be done to prevent the execution of Friedrich Adler, the "champion of the liberty of the peoples and of the idea of universal peace," who has been sentenced to death for the murder of Count Stürgkh, the Austrian Prime Minister.

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The Roumanian Government has asked the Parliament to insert in the Roumanian Constitution two great principles—universal suffrage and expropriation in favour of the peasants.

THE
WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

To secure Human Suffrage, namely, a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People.

Entrance Fee ... ... Id.
Minimum Subscription... Id. a month

I wish to become a Member of the W.S.F. and enclose.....subscription and entrance fee for.....months.

Name .....

Address .....

WHAT'S ON?
W.S.F. FIXTURES
OUTDOOR

FRIDAY, JUNE 1st.
Salmon and Ball, 7 p.m., Mrs. Walker, Mr. Fred Hughes, on "Proportional Representation."
Gernon Road, Bow, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Pitfield Street, Hoxton, 7 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
SATURDAY, JUNE 2nd.
Near Army and Navy Stores, 11 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Bonner Lane, Old Ford Road, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Ford Road, Bow, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
SUNDAY, JUNE 3rd.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker.
The Grove, Stratford (joint meeting with N.-C.F.), 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Hoxton Church, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Victoria Park, 4 p.m., Mrs. Walker, Mr. Humphreys, on "Proportional Representation."
Hyde Park, 6 p.m., Mrs. Cressall, Mrs. Leigh Rothwell.
Hoe Street, Walthamstow (joint meeting with Trades and Labour Council), 7 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
The Square, Woolwich, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
MONDAY, JUNE 4th.
Armagh Road, Bow, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
TUESDAY, JUNE 5th.
Ford Road, Bow, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Clock Tower, Burdett Road, 7.p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
THURSDAY, JUNE 7th.
Sutton Street, Commercial Road, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
FRIDAY, JUNE 8th.
Salmon and Ball, 7 p.m., Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Leigh Rothwell.
Bonner Lane, Old Ford Road, 7 p.m., Mrs. Walker.
SATURDAY, JUNE 9th.
Gernon Road, Roman Road, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Hoxton Street, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
Lesbia Road, Hackney, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.

All interested in Proportional Representation should come to Victoria Park to hear Mr. Humphreys, Secretary of the Proportional Representation Committee.

INDOOR

CHANDOS HALL, 21a Maiden Lane (off Bedford Street, Strand, W.C..—At Home to-day (Saturday), at 3.30 p.m. Rev. W. J. Piggott, "The U.D.C. and its Constructive Policy"; Mrs. Bouvier, "The Present Outlook"; Saturday, June 9th, Mr. S. V. Bracher, "The Future of the British Empire"; Mrs. Drake, "The Present Outlook."

BOW WOMEN'S HALL.— Wednesday, June 6th, 8 p.m. Singing Class.

49 CREDITON ROAD, TIDAL BASIN.—Wednesday, June 6th, 8 p.m., Branch Meeting.

ST. STEPHEN'S SHOP, 85 Hoxton Street (a few minutes' walk from Shoreditch Church or from Old Street Station).—A Social will be held on Thursday, June 7th, 8-11 p.m. Music and dancing. Speech by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. Tickets, 4d., including tax. Refreshments at popular prices.

44 MALDEN ROAD, ST. PANCRAS.—Social and Dance will be held in aid of the General Fund on Saturday, June 2nd, at 8.30. Admission free. Collection. Refreshments at moderate prices.

GRAVEL PIT HALL, Valette Street and Mare Street, Hackney.—Tuesday, June 5th, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Minnie Lansbury, Miss Lynch.

POPLAR WOMEN'S HALL, 20 Railway Street.—Wednesday, June 6th, 8.15 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, "The Situation in Russia."

53 ST. LEONARD'S STREET, BROMLEY.—Monday, June 4th, 2 p.m., Miss Price.

The "Mothers' Arms," 438 Old Ford Road, E. Saturday, June 16th, 6 to 10 p.m., musical "At Home," in aid of the nursery. Music—instrumental and vocal. Games, etc., refreshments. Tickets, 1s., including tea.

Madame Levinskaya's Concert

In aid of the "Mothers' Arms" and East End Babies Milk Fund, at 50 Leinster Gardens, Bayswater Road, W.2 (by kind permission of Madame Maria Levinskaya), a Chamber Music Concert will be held on Saturday, June 9th, at 3.15 p.m., doors open at 2.45 p.m. Artistes: Maria Levinskaya (piano), Lena Kontorovitch (violin), Gertrud Bauer (viola), Essie Creamer ('cello). Tickets, 7s 6d. and 5s., to be obtained from the Financial Secretary, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3.

PROVINCES

BIRMINGHAM.—A Conference on "Mothers' Pensions" will be held in the Priory Rooms to-day (Saturday), June 2nd, at 3 p.m. Judge Neil will attend and address the Conference. Mrs. Barrow Cadbury has kindly consented to take the chair.

Leicester Branch will meet on Monday, June 4th, at 8 p.m., at Miss Gittens' Studio, 2 Berridge Street, when W. W. Borrett, Esq., Secretary, Leicester I.L.P., will deliver a lecture on "The New Franchise Bill." All are welcome.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

A Grand Social Evening (for "Herald" League Bakery), Saturday, June 2nd, 7.30 p.m., at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow. Songs, music, dancing. Tickets at doors, 3d.

WALTHAMSTOW, WILLIAM MORRIS HALL, Somers Road.—Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. League of Rights Meeting.

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Edgar Lansbury, or to the Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

GENERAL FUND.—Irene, per Mrs. Drake (weekly), £1; Central Branch W.S.F., per Miss Lyon, £3 COLLECTIONS: Chandos Hall (2), £1 2s. 9d.; Mrs. Walker, 11. 3d.; Mrs. Cressall, 5s. 6d.; Miss Price, 2s.; Mrs. Mason (fares), 1s. 6½d.; Mrs. Hart (profit on tea), 1s. 3d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—Miss Margaret Molteno (£1 weekly), £5; G. Richards, Esq., £4 18s.; James Leakey, Esq., £1 10s.; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pye, £1 10s.; Dr. Scarlett Synge, 5s.; Mrs. Ellis, 5s.; Rev. C. Moxon, 5s.; Miss E. Smith, 3s.; Dr. and Mrs. Schütze (weekly), 2s. 6d.; Miss Janet Mardon, 2s. 6d.; Nurse Anderson, 2s.; Mrs. Stenning, 1s.; G. P. Boothroyd, Esq., (monthly), 1s.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—W. Mansell, Esq., £2 2s.; Mrs. Unwin, £2; Rev. T. Gore Browne (Montessori), £1; (4s. weekly babies), £1; Nurse Hebbes (weekly), 12s.; Mrs. Richmond (fortnightly), 10s.; Miss Margaret Smith (Crèche), 6s.; Mrs. Craft (Montessori), 5s. 6d.; Mrs. Gillies (Montessori), 4s.; J. C., per Miss Bridges, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Baxter (Montessori), 1s. COLLECTIONS: Milk Churn, 1s. 2½d.

COLLECTIONS.—Misses E. Lagsding and L. Barker (Green's Yard), Misses K. Lagsding and T. Barker (Cubitt Town), 14s. 1½d.

FLOWERS.—Anon, Miss Sinclair.

CLOTHES.—Mrs. Pexton, Mrs. Bixby, Mrs. G. B. White, Mr. C. H. Pease.

HOXTON.—Miss S. Pankhurst, 3s. 1d. (for blinds); Miss King, 2s. 6d. COLLECTIONS: May 17th, 2s. 6½d.; May 24th, 1s. 6½d.

MOTHERS AND BABIES

The Mothers' Arms, 438 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Day nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Mondays, 2.30 p.m. Mothers and babies can consult Nurse at any time.

Health Talks for Mothers are held the first and third Fridays in the month at 3 p.m., at the Mothers' Arms.

Dental Clinic, June 6th, 2.15 p.m.

20 Railway Street, Poplar.
(opposite South Bromley Station).

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Thursdays, 2.30 p.m. Nurse may be seen at any time.

53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley-by-Bow.

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Fridays, 10.30 a.m.

All mothers and children are welcome.

Cost Price Restaurants at 400 Old Ford Road, and 20 Railway Street. Dinners from 12 till 2 p.m. daily.

Subscriptions to the milk and food fund. Doctoring and nursing can help little if mothers and children are unable to obtain nourishment that is ordered.

New laid eggs, barley, glaxo, virol, for invalids. Medicine bottles, clothing and shoes for adults and boys and girls of all ages.

Growing plants, flowers and branches for all our centres and for the L.C.C. schools. We should be grateful to friends who would supply us regularly. We also need vegetables and fruit.

Annual Conference of the Workers' Suffrage Federation

On Whit-Sunday and Whit-Monday the Annual Conference of the Workers' Suffrage Federation was held. Delegates representing the London and provincial branches were present; also some members as visitors. Miss Norah Smyth, Hon. Financial Secretary, took the chair. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Hon. Sec., read the report of the work of the Federation, which was most comprehensive, including the holding of nearly 1,000 propaganda meetings. The report will be printed shortly, and those interested will be able to read at leisure of the tremendous volume of varied work accomplished. The officers elected were:—Hon. Sec., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst; Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss Norah Smyth; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Edgar Lansbury; Hon. Assistant Sec., Mrs. Minnie Lansbury. The new National Committee consists of Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Casey, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Drake, Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Hart, Nurse Hebbes, Miss Lagsding, Mrs. [illegible]oe, Miss Price, Mr. Redgrove, B.Sc., Mrs. [illegible]urr.

The following are among the resolutions which were passed unanimously:—

This Conference considers that the proposals contained in the Report of the Speaker's Conference are unsatisfactory, and hereby declares that no franchise measure will be acceptable to the working class unless it provides for:
(a) Complete Adult Suffrage for men and women for Parliamentary and Local Government purposes.
(b) The abolition of Plural Voting and of the University Franchise.
(c) The abolition of the Pauper Disqualification.
(d) Continuous registration to secure that removal from one part of the country to another shall not disqualify.
(e) Provisions to enable absentee voters to record their votes for the home constituency in the place where they happen to be at the time of the election.

And further urges the Government to introduce a measure embodying these provisions without delay; and expresses its determination to oppose any franchise measure which falls short of Adult Suffrage.

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This Conference desires to see established in this country a scheme for child pensions which shall provide that on application by the parent or parents of a child an adequate allowance shall be paid to such parent or parents on the child's behalf until the child is 16 years of age: these pensions to be sent by post and administered by the Board of Education.

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That this Conference considers that in view of his past association with the Wholesale Provision trade, and his well-known opposition to the interests and claims of the workers, Lord Devonport is absolutely unsuitable to hold the office of Food Controller, and calls for his immediate resignation. This Conference further calls for the nationalisation of food and necessaries with local control by the local authorities and the complete elimination of private profit. It declares that if under national control there is found to be a genuine shortage, an equal share of rationing shall be resorted to.

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This Conference declares its opposition to all War and its desires for the abolition of armies and navies. It recognises that the present conflict is being waged by all the belligerent Governments in the interests of the capitalists and that the war is in its every aspect antagonistic to the workers of the world, to popular and personal liberty and to the general welfare of humanity. The Conference calls upon the British Government to enter into immediate Peace negotiations and to submit its terms to Parliament. This Conference further demands that there shall be neither annexations nor indemnities.

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This Conference recognises that modern wars are of capitalist origin, and that whilst private competitive trading continues the danger of war will not be entirely wiped out. Whilst working to secure a co-operative system of society which shall render wars impossible, the Conference urges:
(a) The establishment of an International Council for the settlement of international affairs. The members of this Council to be men and women elected upon an adult suffrage basis to represent the various nations, the decisions of the International Council to be ratified by the National Parliament.
(b) The establishment of international Free Trade and the abolition of "spheres of influence," the internationalisation of the trade routes and narrow seas and the freedom of the seas.

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This Conference calls for the immediate repeal of the Military Service Acts, and sends its hearty congratulations to the men who have resisted them.

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This Conference affirms its determined opposition to Industrial Conscription and its determination to resist it, and recognising that the so-called National Service Scheme is of this nature, this Conference calls upon men and women not to enrol under the scheme.

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This Conference pledges itself to work to secure that women shall be made eligible to sit as Members of Parliament, Cabinet Ministers, Judges, Jurors and for all elective and administrative offices.

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That the Executive Committee be urged to co-operate in every way in agreement with the aims of the W.S.F. with other societies, especially Labour and Socialist organisations whose programmes include adult suffrage on a democratic basis.

The W.S.F. urges the enactment of provisions for:
(a) Establishing the Referendum.
(b) The Initiative.
(c) The recall and the election of Ministers and Judges by referendum vote.

That the referendum be used within the Federation for the ratification of resolutions adopted by the Annual Conference on new departures in policy where urgency and rapidity of action are not essential. The National Committee to have it in its discretion to decide that it shall itself take the responsibility on any particular occasion for sending out voting papers direct to each member, but as a general rule the National Committee shall not be responsible for doing more than sending out notices of referenda to the branches and the branches to be responsible for conveying the same to individual members: referenda to be taken either on the initiative of the National Committee or on that of one-third of the branches.

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That the organ of the Federation be called "The Workers' Dreadnought."

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That this Conference, realising that the capitalist system of society is irreconcilable with the freedom and the just demands of the workers, urges the W.S.F. to work for the abolition of that system and for the establishment of the Socialist Commonwealth in which the means of production and distribution shall be employed in the interests of the people.

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That this Conference hears with great satisfaction that delegates of the I.L.P. and B.S.P. have won the right to proceed to Russia, and desires to impress upon the delegates the importance and magnitude of the demand in this country for complete Adult Suffrage. The Conference also desires that this demand should be explained to the free people of Russia who are now the standard bearers of Freedom in Europe. We also desire, through the English delegates, to congratulate the Russian people on the magnificent demand which they have addressed to their own and to the other belligerent Governments for a statement of their terms of peace and for a general renunciation of Imperialist and annexationist objects. And particularly we thank them for their continuous and powerful efforts to bring about a general Peace on these lines, and trusts that such efforts will be continued until complete success has been achieved.

W.S.F SOCIAL

On Saturday evening a most successful Social was held at Memorial Hall, at which the famous violinist, Edward Soermus played, Joan Cheney, the charming child dancer danced, Master Leslie French, Westminster chorister, sang. Miss Vine presented a handsome letter case to Miss Smyth on behalf of the members. A very attractive pageant added much to the entertainment. Miss Pankhurst made an appropriate speech, and a pleasant evening was concluded with dancing. Thanks are due to those who helped to arrange the entertainment.

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On Sunday, a very interesting public meeting took place at Chandos Hall, at which Miss Despard, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Bouvier and Mr. Gossip spoke.

ANOTHER ARMY CLOTHING SCANDAL

Already there is another Army clothing bribery scandal, and, from what we hear, the evil continues unchecked. We are convinced that thieving is also rife in the Army Pay Departments, the wives and dependants being the persons defrauded.

FOUND!

A badge of the Royal Rifle Corps was found in the Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, E.3. To be had on application.

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ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.